

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Device~~ An apparatus for applying weather stripping ~~(10) on~~ to a motor vehicle body ~~(20)~~, ~~said the body (20) carrying having an~~ elongated receiving surface ~~(21)~~ with a ~~predetermined~~ profile, the weather stripping ~~(10)~~ comprising a thin wing ~~(11) carrying having~~ a bonding surface ~~(111)~~, ~~the shape of which corresponds~~ corresponding to the receiving surface ~~(21)~~ and a hollow longitudinal tube ~~(12)~~ connected to the wing ~~(11)~~, the positioning device comprising:

an application plate ~~(30)~~ for application of the bonding surface ~~(111)~~ of the weather stripping ~~(10) on to the~~ receiving surface ~~(21)~~;

means ~~(40)~~ for pressing the weather stripping ~~on against the~~ receiving surface ~~(21)~~,
and;

means ~~(50)~~ for guiding ~~of the~~ application plate ~~(30)~~ over a trajectory along the ~~predetermined~~ profile of the receiving surface ~~(21)~~; and

guide means ~~(50)~~ comprising ~~at least a~~ first means of referencing the body ~~(20)~~ of the vehicle with respect to the positioning device, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ guide means ~~(50)~~ comprises programmable articulated mechanical means ~~(52)~~ for displacing the application plate ~~(30)~~ and means ~~(53)~~ for programming the articulated mechanical means ~~(52)~~ to adapt the trajectory of the application plate ~~(30)~~ to different ~~predetermined~~ profiles corresponding to different ~~types of~~ vehicles.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ application plate ~~(30)~~ is selectively connected to ~~or~~ and disconnected from the articulated mechanical means ~~(52)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ means ~~(40)~~ for pressing the weather stripping ~~include includes~~ a second actuator ~~(523)~~ which selectively forces the application plate ~~(30)~~ towards the receiving surface ~~(21)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 2, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the~~ application plate ~~(30)~~ comprises a support ~~(31)~~ and an application roller ~~(32)~~ for application of the weather stripping ~~(10) on to the~~ receiving surface ~~(21)~~, the application roller ~~(32)~~ rolling on a rolling surface ~~(112)~~ of the thin wing ~~(11)~~ ~~on the~~ a side of the wing opposite the bonding surface ~~(111)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 4, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the application roller (32) is mounted to rotate~~ rotates freely with respect to the support (31) and is ~~placed in rotation~~ rotated by a drive element carried by the articulated mechanical means (52).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 5, for positioning ~~of peelable weather stripping (10) whose, the bonding surface (111) of which is coated with an adhesive material before positioning and which is protected by a protective element (12), characterized by the fact that wherein the application plate (30) carries~~ includes means ~~(33) for peeling weather stripping (10), said peeling the means (33) for peeling comprising a roller (331) for winding the protective element (13) of the adhesive material, mounted to rotate~~ rotating freely on the support (31) and ~~placed in rotation~~ rotated by ~~said the~~ the drive element.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims Claim 4 to 6, characterized by the fact that wherein the application plate (30) comprises second means of referencing means (34) to position~~ for positioning a downstream end ~~(14) of the weather stripping (10) in a predetermined reference position with respect to the application roller (32).~~

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the second means of referencing means (34) comprises at least one first arm (341) articulated on the support (31) and an indexing finger (343) connected to the first articulated arm (341), the indexing finger (343) being displaceable between an indexing position, where it is engaged in engaging the hollow tube (12) at the downstream end (14) of the weather stripping (10) when said the weather stripping is in the reference position, and a release position, where this the indexing finger (343) is released.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to Claim 8, ~~characterized by the fact that wherein the indexing finger (343) is forced urged elastically towards its the indexing position, and including an actuator carried by the articulated mechanical means (52) and selectively moving the indexing finger (343) towards its the release position.~~

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims Claim 7 to 9, characterized by the fact that wherein the application plate (30)~~ comprises upstream guide means ~~(35) for an upstream part (15) of the weather stripping (10) on the~~ as an end opposite a downstream end (14), said the upstream guide means (35) being connected to the support (31) and comprising first and second rollers (351) and (352) rolling respectively over the rolling surface (112) and the bonding surface (111), and some third and fourth rollers (353) and (354) with shafts respectively parallel and perpendicular to the shafts of the first and second rollers (351) and (352).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Application device~~ The apparatus according to ~~any one of Claims 2 to 10 in combination with Claim 7, characterized by the fact that it comprises~~ comprising a feed conveyor (61) and a return conveyor (62), and a plurality of the application plates (30) carrying the weather stripping (10) in the reference position, arranged on the feed conveyor (61) in predetermined positions, the articulated mechanical means (52) being programmed to connect to the application plate (30) of the feed conveyor (61) before the weather stripping positioning operation, and to deposit said the application plate (30) on the return conveyor (62) and to disconnect from it the application plate once the weather stripping positioning operation is finished.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for applying weather stripping ~~on to a motor vehicle body, using the positioning device according to Claims 8 and Claim 11, characterized by the fact that it includes the following steps including:~~

a. ~~programming of means (53) for programming the articulated mechanical means (52) to adapt the trajectory of the application plate (30) to the predetermined profile corresponding to the vehicle to be treated;~~

b. ~~preparation by an operator of a~~ preparing the plurality of application plates (30) carrying the weather stripping (10) in the reference position in predetermined positions on the feed conveyor (61);

c. ~~referencing of the body (20) of the vehicle with respect to the positioning device;~~

d. ~~displacement of~~ displacing the articulated mechanical means (52) and connection of said connecting the articulated mechanical means to prearranged application plate (30) plates on the feed conveyor (61);

e. ~~displacement of~~ displacing the articulated mechanical means (52) and application of the downstream end (14) of the weather stripping (10) at to one end of the receiving surface (21);

f. ~~displacement of~~ displacing the indexing finger ~~(343)~~ towards ~~its~~ the release position;

g. ~~positioning of the~~ weather stripping ~~(10)~~ over ~~the entire length of~~ all of the receiving surface ~~(21)~~ by ~~displacement of~~ displacing the application plate ~~(30)~~ along the ~~predetermined~~ profile;

h. ~~displacement of~~ displacing the articulated mechanical means ~~(52)~~ and depositing ~~of said the~~ application plate ~~(30)~~ on the return conveyor ~~(62)~~;

i. ~~disconnection of~~ displacing the articulated mechanical means ~~(52)~~ and ~~said the~~ application plate ~~(30)~~;

j. ~~repetition of the cycle of operations~~ repeating steps c to i for other similar vehicles ~~of the same type~~;

k. periodically, ~~addition of~~ adding new application plates ~~(30)~~ on to the feed conveyor ~~(61)~~ and ~~ejection of the~~ ejecting used application plates ~~(30)~~ of from the return conveyor ~~(62)~~, in masked time with respect to ~~the cycle of operations~~ steps c to i; and

l. ~~resumption of the cycle~~ resuming at step a when switching to a ~~new type of~~ different vehicle.